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LOGLINE

Through her attempt to ignite a romance with a much older man, Sarah, a fiercely independent teenager, learns to appreciate not only her youth, but also her overbearing mother.

SYNOPSIS

ONLY HUMANS is a coming-of-age dramedy revolving around Sarah, a mature teenager, and her divorced mother Nancy. Distracted by her own need for love, Nancy projects her desire for male companionship onto Sarah, who is completely dedicated to her art and not much else. The film opens when Vince Gardner moves in next door. Immediately, he is thrust into their lives. Sarah quickly falls for the much older Vince. As the stakes get higher and Vince and Sarah consummate their relationship, things unravel. Sarah tries to get closer to Vince; he pulls away. Nancy chases Vince; Vince sidesteps Nancy. At the end, Vince leaves, and the story circles back to mother and daughter, who come to accept their need and love for one another.

Writer/Director BIO



Vanessa Knutsen



Vanessa Knutsen is an award-winning filmmaker from Israel. Upon fulfilling her military obligations in the Israeli Army, Vanessa moved to the US and earned her BA at Yale University. Committed to pursuing her dream of directing feature films and television, Vanessa continued her studies at UCLA's prestigious film school where she earned her MFA in Film Production and Directing. Her thesis film "The Promised Land," opened UCLA's annual Director's Spotlight and went on to premiere at the Palm Springs International ShortsFest where it was honored with two awards – Best Student Short Film and Cinema Without Borders. The film has since screened at festivals in the US and abroad, earning a 2012 student BAFTA and gaining distribution with Film Movement. Vanessa's feature Only Humans was a finalist for the Sundance Screenwriter's Lab.

VISUAL STYLE











PRIMARY LOCATIONS



SARAH & NANCY'S HOUSE / VINCE'S HOUSE



VINCE'S GARAGE



VINCE'S CAR

CAST ATTACHED



Nancy (MOTHER)

EAGER TO SECURE HER NEXT HUSBAND, NANCY IS MORE FOCUSED ON THIS TASK THAN ON HER TEENAGE DAUGHTER. NANCY WANTS SARAH TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO HER LOOKS AND ABANDON HER DREAM OF BECOMING A PAINTER.

Melora Hardin

Widely recognized for portraying Jan Levinson on the NBC hit TV series *The Office*, Melora has appeared in countless TV series and films. She played Trudy Monk on USA's *Monk*, has appeared on *Scandal*, *CSI: Miami*, *Gilmore Girls* and *Boston Legal*. Most recently, Melora has starred in the award winning Amazon series *Transparent*. Her film credits include: *Hannah Montana*, *17 Again*, *Hot Chick*, *27 Dresses* and many more.

CHARACTER/TALENT REACHING OUT TO





Vince

Grieving the recent loss of his mother, Vince is in a vulnerable place. Sarah reminds him of his younger, hopeful self.

IDEAL ACTOR

JUSTIN BARTHA

VINCENT KARTHEISER

TOPHER GRACE



Sarah

Introspective and independent,
Sarah dreams of a future less
Predictable than those around
Her. Suffocated by her mother's
Constant nagging, she seeks
Comfort in Vince.

IDEAL ACTOR

Open to unknown Elise Silver Chloe Grace Moretz Kiernan Shipka



Evan

Sarah's best friend who wants desperately to be her boyfriend.

Jealous of Sarah's relationship with Vince, Evan is in a position to reveal their secret.

IDEAL ACTOR

Devin Druid Masam Holden



CREATIVE TEAM



JORDAN AUTEN - PRODUCER

Jordan has written, produced and directed several award winning short films. Following film school, Jordan produced *Mamitas*, an audience favorite and Independent Spirit Award feature film nominee. She's currently directing and producing digital branded content for many high profile brands. Jordan is most excited about working with UCLA award winning director, Vanessa Knutsen on her upcoming feature, ONLY HUMANS.



ESTHER SHUBINSKI - EDITOR

Esther Shubinski is an award winning director and editor. She studied Film at UC Berkeley and UCLA, where she taught Documentary Production in the MFA Program. She works as an editor for TV and Independent Documentaries. Esther's work has been featured in The Telluride Film Festival, International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, American Documentary Film festival in Palm Springs and DokuFest in Kosovo.



ZIV BERKOVICH - CINEMATOGRAPHER

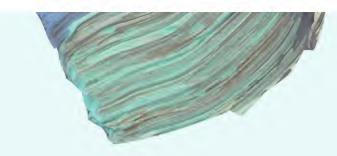
Ziv is an award winning cinematographer from Israel. He was recently nominated for two Ophir prizes (Israeli Oscar) for the feature film Self Made (Boreg), as well as his work on the Israeli TV show., Very Important Person. Self Made won the 2014 AFI Fest and was nominated for the Critics Week Grand Prize at Cannes. Ziv and Vanessa collaborated on her award-wining short film The Promised Land.



SHERRI CHUNG - COMPOSER

Sherri is an award winning composer who currently writes music for NBC's Blindspot, CBS's Supergirl and CW's Legends of Tomorrow. Sherri also works on the music for the TV shows Family Guy and American Dad. An accomplished pianist and vocalist, her singing voice can be heard on scores for films, music for film trailers, as well as the TV shows Resurrection, Arrow, and Blindspot.

TIMELINE



AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH

FILMING 8/15-8/31

EDITING BEGINS

8/15

SUNDANCE SUBMISSION 9/26 SXSW SUBMISSION 11/1

POST PRODUCTION

ONGOING - PENDING FESTIVAL ACCEPTANCE

SUNDANCE FESTIVAL SXSW FESTIVAL



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